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# REPORT OF THE CURATOR OF THE WILLIAM S. VAUX COLLECTIONS.

The Curator of the William S. Vaux collections respectfully submits his fifth annual report to the Council of the Academy:—

The collections are in good order and condition. No change has been made since the report of 1886, except such as would necessarily result from the introduction of the new specimens added to the collections.

During the year 156 specimens were purchased at a cost of \$638.00. To accommodate the increase, \$44.60 have been expended for two new cases.

The collections consist at present as follows:—

Number of mineral specimens as per report of 1886,	.	6,630
Purchased during the year ending November 30,	.	156

Total,	.	6,786
Archæological specimens (same as reported in 1886),	.	2,940

The growth of the collections since they came into the Academy's possession has been as follows:—

Specimens purchased in 1884,	.	60
Specimens purchased in 1885,	.	104
Specimens purchased in 1886,	.	114
Specimens purchased in 1887,	.	156

Total,	.	434
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The aggregate cost of these has been . . . \$2086.70

Among those purchased during the present year most worthy of special notice may be mentioned a Stalagmite of Aragonite. This specimen measures 4 ft. 4 in. in height, and weighs about 100 pounds. It was taken from a cavern in the Organ Mountain, New Mexico, and is believed to be an unusually fine example of stalagmitic formation. Other interesting specimens are a fine group of Rutiles from Georgia, remarkable for their high lustre and sharp angles of crystallization; a large specimen of Wulfenite from Arizona, the stone matrix of which is 6 by 8 inches, coated over with beautiful red translucent crystals of Molybdate of lead; a large specimen of Stibnite from Japan, weighing 125 pounds, consisting of a group of

70 or 80 well terminated crystals of Antimony Sulphide, with beautiful modifications; and several specimens of Azurite and Malachite from Arizona.

Respectfully submitted,

JACOB BINDER,

*Curator.*

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#### REPORT OF THE BIOLOGICAL AND MICRO-SCOPICAL SECTION.

During the year 17 stated meetings were held with an average attendance of 10 members.

The Annual Exhibition was held Dec. 9th, 1886 with the usual success.

One member and eight contributors were elected during the year.

The deaths of Dr. N. A. Randolph and of Paul P. Keller were announced.

The following are the more important subjects under discussion during the year:—

December 6, 1886. Recent advances in Embryology, by Prof. J. A. Ryder.

December 6, 1886. Fructification in the Algae, by Dr. L. Brewer Hall.

January 3, 1887. Observations upon *Trichia scabra*, by Harold Wingate.

January 3, 1887. Demonstration of Prof. Ryder's ribbon cutting Microtome.

January 17, 1887. Observations upon the eggs of the Skate, by Prof. J. A. Ryder.

February 9, 1887. Upon the best methods of making Cells, by Dr. L. Ashley Faught.

February 9, 1887. The blastodermic layers in the yolk of different animals, by Prof. J. A. Ryder.

February 21, 1887. The hairs and spines of *Onosmodium Virginiana* and other plants, by Dr. J. B. Brinton.

February 21, 1887. Experiments with the moth larva in reference to the manner in which they injure wood fibres, by George B. Cock.

March 7, 1887. Experiments with the moth larva and Cockroach with reference to the manner in which they injure wool fibres, by George B. Cock.